**SB01-003 DEER HAZARDS ON FORT RILEY**
August 2001 (Revised)

**Watch out for Deer!** Deer/vehicle collisions have increased dramatically with an increasing population of deer on Fort Riley. This year, 22 deer/vehicle collisions have already been reported. In 2000, 37 deer were killed by automobile collisions. Fortunately, no injuries to people were sustained on-post. Most deer collisions on-post occur along Huebner Road during the early morning hours when soldiers and civilian employees are coming to work. However, deer are also frequently hit on Vinton School Road and Williston Point Road.

Knowing a little about deer behavior and following some simple guidelines can decrease the likelihood that you will hit a deer. Deer/vehicle collisions increase dramatically during the rut. Deer are much more active and on the move during the rut (breeding season). The rut begins in October and may extend until January.

Deer are most active in the first hours after dusk and just before dawn. They tend to follow established trails and are more likely to get hit where these trails intersect with "people roads". Known deer crossings may be marked with signs, but drivers should be aware of any potential trail crossings on roadways. Such trails often follow brushy draws, creek bottoms, and other areas that provide concealment. Pay close attention whenever these trails intersect the road. Motorists should intentionally look for deer when driving.

Reflective eyes in your headlights are usually the first sign of deer along or in the roadway. Slow down immediately if you see them, and be prepared for them to possibly cross in front of you. Do not assume that they are "smart" enough not to cross in front of you!

Stay alert, for a second or even third animal following the leader. If you can't avoid hitting a deer, stay in your lane and brake in a controlled manner. It is better to hit the deer in a controlled manner than to swerve and lose control. A motorist or passengers are much more likely to be severely injured during an uncontrolled collision.

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